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most striking point in these tables is the confident reduction of Sargon and Naram-Sin from the period 3750 B.C., to which they are assigned by the historiographers of Nabonidus, to *circa* 2500 B.C. Perhaps it may be well for general students to exercise caution in accepting this radical rewriting of the history even though it be supported by most of the specialists who now are working over this material. In the historical survey it is a pleasure to note that Professor Jastrow has now definitively abandoned Halévy's anti-Sumerian theories and has joined his colleagues all over the world in acknowledging and seeking to define the existence and influence of the Sumerian people and their civilization.

The greatest contributions to knowledge made in this book are in the lectures on the Pantheon and upon Divination. Professor Jastrow has, almost unassisted, laid the whole foundation of our knowledge of liver divination, and erected most of the superstructure. Like every other discoverer, he has probably somewhat exaggerated its importance relatively to other phases of the religion. He has perhaps felt this somewhat himself and has sought to restore the balance by the notable lecture on Ethics and Life after Death, in the first part of which this noble old faith is shown, though sorely oppressed by magic, to have risen to distinguished heights. If I may be allowed at the very end of this notice to express very delicately one personal desideratum, I should say that the whole picture of the Babylonian religion, which the popular reader secures from this book, would be much enhanced in color, truth, and proportion if there had been one lecture on Hymns and Prayers. But this I have no right to demand, for the book does exactly what the title promises, and does it better than ever before.

ROBERT W. ROGERS.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Ireland under the Normans, 1169-1216. In two volumes. By GODDARD HENRY ORPEN, Member of the Royal Irish Academy. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1911. Pp. 400; 363.)

THE importance of the Norman invasion as "the most far-reaching event that occurred in Ireland since the introduction of Christianity" justifies the detailed study to which it has been subjected in these volumes. The author, known especially for his excellent edition of the *Song of Dermot and the Earl* and numerous papers on Norman castles, is an acknowledged authority on this period of Irish history, and the book justifies his reputation. It rests upon a wide use of the available sources of information, documentary and archaeological as well as literary, and there is an evident effort to lay aside modern prepossessions and approach the subject impartially. Thus with regard to the plundering of churches and monasteries for which the Anglo-Norman leaders are often reproached, Mr. Orpen shows that this is something of which the Irish chieftains were also guilty, and in a land where churches were

the ordinary storehouses of the people, their spoliation was a military measure rather than an act of impiety. A large part of the narrative, dealing as it must with the details of the occupation of the country and its division into feudal holdings, is mainly of local and genealogical importance, but much also possesses wider interest. There is a convenient sketch of social and political conditions on the eve of the Norman invasion, and an interesting summary of the results of the first fifty years of Norman rule. The author concludes that there was no general expropriation of the peasantry and that many of the former chiefs were allowed to retain portions of their lands, so that, within the regions controlled by the Normans, districts remained where the old tribal organization and law were preserved and where "the king's writ did not run". At the same time the conquerors plainly looked upon the natives with contempt and lacked the political foresight which would have sought to establish equal rights and bring the whole country under a single law. From the reign of Henry II. on, Ireland was neither one thing nor the other; the natives were unable to drive the invaders out, and the royal power was too remote and intermittent in its action to complete the conquest and establish the reign of law which prevailed in England. Contrary to a common opinion, Mr. Orpen maintains that John's government was no better in Ireland than elsewhere. He was the same man on both sides of the Irish Sea, "capricious, vindictive, tyrannical, only that in his tyranny he was even less under control", although when he came to need the support of the Irish barons "he did something to undo the evil he had done". On the other hand the author believes that the English rule during the century after 1216 was more complete and more beneficent than has been generally recognized, and we shall await with interest his treatment of this period.

One or two observations upon Mr. Orpen's use of his sources may be permitted. Giraldus Cambrensis and the author of the *Song of Dermot and the Earl* he still considers as entirely independent authorities, in spite of the strong arguments adduced by Liebermann to show that certain portions of their accounts go back to a common source. It is true that we do not know what the "customs of Breteuil exactly were" (II. 316), but that is no excuse for ignoring Miss Bateson's attempt to reconstruct them. Although agreeing with Round and Thatcher respecting the attitude of Adrian IV. and Alexander III. toward Henry II.'s expedition to Ireland, Mr. Orpen differs from them in accepting the genuineness of the much-discussed bull *Laudabiliter*. He makes a new point by assigning to the spring of 1173 a letter of credence given by Henry to William Fitz Audelin which has not hitherto been connected with the mission to Ireland mentioned in the Pipe Roll of this year.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.